THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) The Central Public Sector Undertakings, namely IDPL, BIL, BCPL, SSPL and HAL are manufacturing drugs in Units located at Rishikesh, Hyderabad, Gurgaon, Calcutta, Kanpur, Mumbai, Dehradun, 24 Parganas and Pune. The production range of these Units covers Antibiotic, Anti-pyretic, Analgesic, Anti-TB, Antimalarial, Cough, Opthalmic, Anti-asthamatic, Antacid, Antiseptic, Vitamin, Contraceptive preparations, various types of Vaccines and I.V. Fluids.

(d) The total value of the drugs manufactured by these, companies during 1999-2000 is about Rs. 182 Crores.

Progress of Assam Gas Cracker Project

635. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 897, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March,
2000 and state:

(a) what progress has been made in implcmeutisig the As»am Gas Cracker Project which was a commitment under the Assam accord;

(b) by when the project is going lo be commissioned; and

(c) what is the explanation for the delay in implementing the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) M/s. Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. (RAPL) a joint venture of the Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) and Reliance Industries Ltd. (RILj. holds a LOI for setting up Gas Cracker Project in Assam. The Government of Assam, in consultation with RAPL, had identified the site tor she Project at Tengakhat, against which the Chabbua Air Fcr;e Authorities have raised objections. Therefore, the project is required to be relocated. An alternate site has sni.e bec,i identified at Lapetkata in Dibrugarh District and Environment Impact Assessment Study has commenced. Government of Assam *Ins*

fixed a time schedule for acquisition and handing over of land for the new site to RAPL. As regards the Gas supply Agreement, RAPL and OIL India Ltd. (OIL) have resolved all the outstanding issues *viz.* clauses relating to liquidated damages, technical issues such as composition of gas, flow rates etc. RAPL and OIL have initiated the draft Gas Supply Contract on July 6, 2000. They have further agreed to execute the final Gas Supply Agreement at the earliest, subject to the approval of their respective Board of Directors and acceptance by financial institutions from RAPL side.

The Project is expected to be commissioned within 44 months from the date of signing of Gas Supply Agreement and handing over of land, whichever is later.

Manufacture of non-Chemical fertilizers

†636. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether k is a fact that Khadi and Village Industries Commission is considering the scheme for manufacturing non-chemical fertilizers;

(b) if so whether the possibilities of encouraging the use of non-chemical fertilizers in the country have been identified; and

(c) if so, the assessment of Government in this regard and the average ratio of the use of chemical and non-chemical fertilizers in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) Government of India is encouraging the use of bio-fertilizers and compost-farm yard manure in the country as a method of supplementing the use of chemical fertilizers with a view *to* increasing the crop production and maintenance of soil fertility. Khadi and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.